



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



February 29, 2008

**Listen twice as much as you talk and you will
learn twice as much, and solve as many problems.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Oxford Post 112 Portland Post 168

Membership

We are now getting down to the final days of meeting our National goal in membership for the Big Twelve Competition and we need your help. As of today, we need to have at least 142 more members by March 11, 2008. The transmittal will be mailed overnight on March 11th to insure National receives them prior to the deadline of the competition.

Department Testimonial

Smith-Tobey Post 21 of Bath will host the Department Testimonial for Department Commander Paul L'Heureux, Department President Charlotte "Kitty" Wing, and SAL Detachment Commander Don Allisot on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Social hour will be at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner choices are pork loin or baked stuffed haddock with peas, rolls, baked potato and strawberry shortcake for \$15 per person. The Bath Post will also have a live band called "Vegetables By Day" starting at 8 p.m. for your entertainment.

Please send your reservations to Department of Maine, P. O. Box 900, Waterville 04903 indicating your choice of pork or haddock. All proceeds from the dinner will go to veterans programs in Maine.

**Combat Veterans
Health Care Extended**

Military veterans who served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998, including veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, are now eligible for five years of free medical care for most conditions from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This measure increases a two-year limit that has been in effect nearly a decade.

The five-year deadline has no effect upon veterans with medical conditions related to their military service. Veterans may apply at any time after their discharge from the military, even decades later, for medical care for service-connected health problems.

This new provision, part of the national Defense Authorization Act of 2008 was signed by President Bush on Jan. 28, 2008, applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient clinic or nursing home. It also extends VA dental benefits, previously limited to 90 days after discharge for most veterans, to 180 days. Combat veterans who were discharged between Nov. 11, 1998 and Jan. 16, 2003, and who did not take advantage of VA's health care system, have until Jan. 27, 2011 to qualify for free VA health care. The five-year window is also open to activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, if they served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Veterans who take advantage of this five-year window to receive VA health care can continue to receive care after five years, although they may have to pay copayments for medical problems unrelated to their military service. Copayments range from \$8 for a 30-day supply of prescription medicine to \$1,024 for the first 90 days of inpatient care each year.

FMI, please visit <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel>

**Tax Stimulus
Rebate**

If most of your income is from social security, chances are you have not previously been required to file a tax return. This year in order to receive an economic-stimulus rebate you must file a tax return. You will not have to pay taxes, but the government is using the tax return to trigger the payment of the recently authorized economic-stimulus rebates. These rebates are \$300 per person or \$600 per married couple if you have at least \$3000 in 2007 from Social Security, veteran's benefits, railroad retirement, earned income or some combination of these income sources.

In order to receive the rebate, seniors and others who aren't normally required to file a tax return must fill out a certain section of Form 1040A. The form is available at many public libraries or post offices or you can download the form at www.irs.gov Once you have the form, write the words "stimulus Payment" at the top, fill out the section that asks for your name, address and social security number, and report any earned income you received in 2007 on line 17. Social Security and veteran's benefits should be reported on Line 14A. Once you have entered your earned income or other benefits, sign the form at the bottom, and you're done. You can find the address to file this return at the "where to file" link in the 1040 Central section of the IRS website or by calling 800-829-1040.

2008 Legion College

Now it is time to prepare for the Class of 2008. The first base task is to identify candidates for this year's session, which runs from November 2 - 7, 2008. The following is provided to help you get a head start in the recruiting and selection process.

Course Curriculum: A combination of lecture, small group workshops and practice exercises will comprise the structure of the course. Students will receive training in leadership, sales and marketing, communication and fundraising.

Selection Requirements: The criteria for selecting candidates are the same. We are looking for Legionnaires with military service from 1982 or later. Candidates must also complete The American Legion Extension Institute prior to submitting their application.

The deadline for submitting up to three nominations is July 18, 2008. The Department Commander or Department Adjutant must endorse each candidate's application. A National Selection Panel made up of Past National Commanders will make the final selections. Once students are selected the National Staff will contact them directly.

Recruiting Candidates: Now is the time to start looking for candidates. There are several ways to begin your search. One way is to publicize the College through your post newsletters. E-mail is another way to get the word out.

Expenses: The cost of the college per Department is \$600.00 for the person chosen by the National Selection Committee and will be paid for by the Department of Maine.

Per Diem: Students will receive \$50.00 per day per diem except for instances where National provides meals.

Travel: All travel arrangements will be made through the National office. Students who fly into Indianapolis will receive their airline tickets from National. Likewise, National will figure the mileage (\$.485 per mile) for those students who choose to drive to Indianapolis, not to exceed least expensive airfare from nearest airport.

Lodging: All students will be housed at the Sheraton Hotel located in downtown Indianapolis. Students will be paired up two to a room.

Other: Students will be responsible for out-of-pocket incidentals and garage parking.

For a copy of the student application send request to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville ME 04903-0900 or call 873-3229 or go to the National Legion webpage at www.legion.org, under Programs/Events, Legion College.

Good luck and thanks for all that you do for American and the Legion.

Letters of intent

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of their discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant’s office prior to May 21, 2008. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo (not computer generated) of yourself must be at Department Headquarters by **April 25, 2008**.

Resolutions deadline

All resolutions to be presented for action at any Convention shall be presented to the office of the Department Adjutant on or before **May 1** of the subject year. Said resolutions shall be published and printed in the official organ of the Department of Maine, The American Legion in the next issue following said date of May 1. Resolutions must be presented to the Department Adjutant’s office in writing, dated and signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the sponsoring groups or Chairman and Secretary of sponsoring committee.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Jeff Barnes	\$20.00 – Legacy Scholarship Fund
Rockland Post 1	\$500.00 – Special Olympics
Bath Police Benevolent Association	\$230.00 – Boys State

Directory Change

Pg. 59: Dexter Post 53 will now meet on the 2nd Tuesday, not the 4th.

What’s Happening?

Yarmouth Post 91: March 4, Post Home, 8 p.m. Guest speaker Lt. Cmdr. Charlie Summers, currently on active duty with the Multi-National Forces in Iraq, will present a first-hand look at what is happening now, our interaction with the civilian population in Iraq, and the outlook for the future in this war-torn country. Charlie is home for a two-week R & R from his deployment to Iraq.

CPO Birthday Ball: March 21, Italian heritage Center, 40 Westland Ave., Portland, 1800 social hour. Uniform: Dress Blues or better. Deluxe dinner buffet. \$35 per person. Ticket sales end March 14 and there will be no ticket sales at the door. FMI, please call Lisa Clemmey at 921-1846 or 774-2138.

District Meetings

District 13 – Penobscot: Mar. 2, Hermon Post 200 (at Hermon H.S.), 12:00 noontime lunch, 1 p.m. mtg.
District 4 – Franklin: Mar. 3, Strong Post 78, 6:30 p.m. pot-luck dinner co-sponsored by Strong Post 78 and Kingfield Post 61 with meeting to follow. Guest speaker Ken Bouchard on Heroes to Hometown.
District 16 – So. Aroostook: Mar. 9, Presque Isle Post 88, 2 p.m. (There will be no dinner served)
District 2 – Cumberland: Mar. 9, So. Portland Post 35, 2 p.m.
District 15 – Washington: Mar. 9, Cherryfield Post 8, 2 p.m. mtg., dinner to follow
District 12 – Hancock: Mar. 11, Blue Hill Post 85, 6:30 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow
District 14 – Piscataquis: Mar. 15, Sangerville Post 165, 6:30 p.m. dinner, mtg. to follow
District 3 – Androscoggin: Mar. 16, Auburn Post 31, 2 p.m.
District 11 – Waldo: Mar. 16, Stockton Springs Post 157, 2 p.m.
District 5 – Oxford: Mar. 18, Norway Post 82, 7 p.m. (elections)

Sick Call

Maurice Norwood, Southwest Harbor Post 69, P. O. Box 98, Southwest Harbor 04679.
Dennis Axelson, Past Commander Westbrook Post 197, 14 Lamb St. Apt. 1, Westbrook 04092.

Sons of The American Legion Detachment News

There is a Detachment Executive Committee (DEC) meeting scheduled for 2 p.m. at Mechanic Falls Post 150 on Sunday, March 2nd, weather permitting. This winter has been quite ridiculous and I for one am ready to get some sun. Membership stands at 83% and we can reach our goal of 100% by March 31st! The Lobster Raffle will be drawn on March 10th. Joe Cooper will be on hand in Mechanic Falls to collect any money we have at the meeting; this will be drawn in Belfast.

There are some very positive things coming out of this Detachment right now. We are beginning to get a few more people interested and involved. It is exciting and this is what is needed to happen. The next commander will need to continue this and I am in hopes that he will even inspire more individuals to give of themselves. This promotes the detachment and The Sons of The American legion and the American Legion Family. There are many reasons why we do what we do and there are as many reasons as there are people doing those projects. To me it was to make my community a better place to live in.

I would like for this detachment to finish this fiscal year strong in membership, working those great projects we do and of course reporting. Don't be afraid to tell someone about them. Shortly, Ron Densmore will be sending the Consolidated Report Forms to all squadrons. These are so very important and your attention to this at your squadron is essential to our Veterans.

Don Allisot
Detachment Commander

Auxiliary Corner

Just a reminder about the poppy contest taking place at the Awareness Assembly in Washington, D.C. at the end of March. Maine is allowed 12 corsages. Please have them to me by March 15th. Remember National President Jan's theme of Team Spirit, Forward Think, A Ripple Today And a Wave Tomorrow, which we should comply with when making our corsages.

Also, we are hoping posts and units are supporting our National President's project; "Educating Children of Warriors". You can contact the Development Division at National at (317) 955-3858 or www.development@legion-aux.org to obtain a pledge form.

Bath Unit 21: Mar. 9, Bath Post 21, 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Sunday morning breakfast to support the Gifts of Gratitude program to send care packages to our deployed troops. \$6 donation requested. FMI, please call Ginny Chaput at 319-2427.

3rd District: Mar. 9, Topsham Post 202, 2 p.m. refreshments following mtg.

Sick Call: Lilly Stevenson, Bath Unit 21, 103 Ridge Road, Bath 04530
Amy Wright, Bath Unit 21, 444 Washington St., Bath 04530

Unit Secretaries – Please remember if you have any dates you wish to have me put into the SMILE, please have them to me by Wednesday of each week, so I can submit it with my message on Thursday. You can contact me at 443-8816 or email: monami@suscom-maine.net

District 4 Auxiliary Meeting; March 2, Augusta Post 205 at 2:00 p.m.

Charlotte "Kitty" Wing
Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

POST DUES RATE FOR 2009

The following form should be submitted to Department Headquarters by **April 1, 2008**, for your Posts 2009 dues rate. **Please submit this form even if your dues rate is not changing.** Dues rates received after this date will **not** be reflected on the first renewal notice for 2009 membership.

Detach the form and return it to The American Legion, Department of Maine, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, Maine 04903-0900.

2009 POST DUES RATE

We have no changes for the 2009 Post dues rate - **OR** -

1. List the mailing address of the Post or officer to whom your 2009 renewal notices will be sent. We **MUST** have a **complete address, including zip code.**

Post Name and No.: _____

Mailing address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

2. Amount to be charged by your Post for 2009 annual dues \$_____

Commander or Adjutant signs _____ Post

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED
BY APRIL 1, 2008**

